

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of Industrial
Relations
News For Immediate Release
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Mobile Man Guilty of Violating Unemployment Compensation Law

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, April 14, 2005 A Mobile man has been found guilty of violating the Alabama Unemployment Compensation Law.

Reginald Hinton was tried in the Mobile County District Court on April 14, 2005 and was charged with violating Alabama's Unemployment Compensation Law. The Alabama Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) presented evidence that Hinton willfully made false statement in claims for unemployment benefits. An investigation by the DIR Benefit Payment Control Section determined that Hinton received a total of \$1,470.00 in unemployment benefits to which he was not entitled. The evidence was presented by DIR Investigator William A. Chappelle.

"DIR, in cooperation with local District Attorney offices, is continuing to actively pursue indictments and arrests of those who allegedly draw unemployment compensation benefits illegally," says Phyllis Kennedy, Industrial Relations director. "The successful prosecution of these cases helps to maintain the integrity of the state's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund, used to pay benefits to citizens that are truly qualified to receive the money. It also serves as a deterrent to potential violators of the Alabama Unemployment Compensation Law."

Hinton plead guilty and was sentenced by Judge Charles McKnight to one year suspended, formal probation for two years, and was fined \$500.00. He will also be required to repay the amount of benefits received.

Suspected unemployment compensation fraud may be reported to Industrial Relations through the toll-free telephone number, 1-800-392-8019.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on DIR visit the Web site: <http://dir.alabama.gov/>.